

Celebrates 80th Birthday

The old Sears homestead near Prairie Hill was the scene of a pleasant family gathering last Thursday when Uncle Pettis celebrated his 80th birthday. No official citizen of Chariton county is more widely and favorably known than Uncle Pettis Sears, a Baptist divine for more than half a century, and head of a large, prominent and widely scattered family.

Aunt Jane Hubbard, Uncle Pettis' only living sister, Mrs. Mary Sears Connely, a granddaughter, and her newly acquired husband, both of whom sail for China soon and Guy Sears, a grandson, and his wife of Grinnell, Iowa were the guests from a distance at last Thursday's affair. The children and grandchildren who live near, and a few neighbors and friends were also present and the day is described as a particularly enjoyable one.

It is doubtful if any home within a great distance has seen as many

festivities as has this old homestead, merrymakings of a social nature, family reunions widely attended, weddings galore, and a spirit of hospitality which is becoming rare in this age, has prevailed them all.

Uncle Pettis has retained a wonderfully cheerful outlook on life and an unusual physical vigor and mental alertness which is wonderful for an octogenarian. He is ready at a moments notice to marry a couple, say the last word over a departed friend, supply the pulpit, or tell a joke that will bring a laugh to the soberest face. His life which has seen much of gladness has not been unmarked with sadness, death, misfortunes having not slighted some very near and dear to him.

We who know him and have often partaken of his hospitality trust that his four score years may sit lightly upon him and that many more birthdays may be his portion.

—Democrat.

TRANSPARENT POLITICS Buncomb Land And Loan Scheme Cheap Money Myth

The "Homestead Land and Loan" measure concerning which literature is being scattered broadcast all over the state during the present time, bears on its face nothing more nor less than a scheme hatched up by some loan men for the purpose of not only defeating the Gardner Land Bank measure, but also the defeat of Col. Gardner himself for Governor.

It is necessary only to recite one or two clauses in the alleged constitutional amendment said to be prepared for submission two years hence, to convince any one that the scheme is purely political and for present purposes and that it will never get further than the election in November.

In the very first place there is a provision in the alleged amendment that "all public revenue for the state and for the counties and municipalities shall be derived from taxes on the value of land, the rates of taxation to be not to exceed three times the rates fixed by the constitution at the time of the amendment." This would be lovely in the extreme as a starter. It needs no further comment. But the next fancy touch the farmer of the mythical measure puts forth is that all land, hereditaments etc. shall be exempt from taxation to the extent of three thousand dollars, if the owner actually occupies the premises and yet, "no tax shall be imposed upon personal property or improvements on land or upon any occupation; provided that nothing herein contained shall in any wise apply to taxes upon intoxicating liquors or tobacco or upon the manufacture or sale thereof or to such licenses as may be necessary to the proper exercise of the police power, or to income or inheritance taxes. All taxable land shall be assessed at its full market value, exclusive of improvements, etc. &c." Look at this much of the article, and then take into consideration its single tax symptoms, its political purposes, its commercial inconsistencies and you will see at once that it is more in the nature of an attempt to ridicule any sort of land bank measure than a genuine purpose to benefit the class who are entitled to cheaper money to do business with. The assertion that the rate percent would be no greater than three and that by the framers scheme the principal would be paid off in twenty years tell us nothing, for no mention is made of just what the "scheme" comprehends.

Under the Gardner Land Bank plan, everything is easy to comprehend. The amendment proposed by him will carry at the November election, the legislature will frame a law establishing a land bank. If one borrows money from that bank for a term of 25 years, it will cost him as follows; on a loan of two thousand dollars he will pay; 4.3.10 percent interest, 7.10 percent for expenses and 1.2 percent for sinking fund. That makes 1.2 or \$130 a year, or for twenty-five years, \$3220. His debt is then entirely paid, principal interest and expenses. That makes \$1250 paid for the use of \$2000 for 25 years.

That represents \$50 a year, or 2.5 percent interest. But say that the borrower pays the debt with any surplus he may have accumulated, in 12.2 years the interest he will have paid is 3.1.8 and he owes only \$1000 of the principal to pay. Is this plan a good one and calculated to furnish money cheap enough? Is there a farmer in the world worthy of the name, who could not make money with capital as cheap as this to work with?



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The Tractor

The Tractor on the farm arose
Before the dawn at four;
It drove up cows and washed the clothes,
And finished every chore.
Then forth it went, into the field,
Just at the break of day;
It reaped and threshed the golden yield,
And hauled it all away.

It plowed the field that afternoon,
And when the job was through,
It hummed a pleasant little tune,
And churned the butter, too.
And pumped the water for the stock,
And ground a crib of corn,
And hauled the baby round the block,
To still its cries forlorn.

Thus ran the busy hours away,
By many a labor blest;
And, yet, when fell the twilight gray
The Tractor had no rest.
For, while the farmer, peaceful eyed,
Read by the Tungsten's glow,
The patient Tractor stood outside,
And ran the dynamo.

—George Fitch.

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Mikes Latest

Mrs. Deward Coe and Mrs. John Ford spent Sunday with Mrs. Ben Bills.

Quite a number from here attended preaching at Rothville Sunday.

Misses Viola Lightfoot, Reba Joe Hains and Mrs. T. O. Colley and daughter, Lennah Agnes called on ye scribe Sunday.

Miss Vertie Wright spent Saturday night and Sunday with homefolks.

Mrs. James Hedrick is the proud possessor of a new piano. Miss M. E. Young also possesses one.

Misses Inez and Willa Burgen were shopping in Marceline Friday.

Mrs. Ben Payne is sick at this writing with gall stones.

Miss Goldie Hedrick spent Thursday night and Friday with Miss Viola Lightfoot.

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Do You

Think dog muzzling cruel and then marvel at the spread of the rabies?

Carefully select your brand of liquor and then Feed your children unpasteurized milk?

Repeat the Golden Rule and then sneeze in somebody's face?

Go camping for your health and then place your toilet so that it drains into your water supply?